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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/631,855	08/03/2000	Richard Rowe	IGTECH.0007P	9950

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EXAMINER

DURAN, ARTHUR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/631,855

Applicant(s)

ROWE, RICHARD

Examiner

Arthur Duran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. .

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 have been examined.

Response to Amendment

2. The Amendment filed on 12/20/04 is sufficient to overcome the Boushy reference.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/20/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe (6,394,907) in view of Rowe Provisional Application (60/200,329) in view of Luciano (6,500,067).

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Rowe (6,394,207) discloses the EZ pay ticket system for games, games, game machines and casinos (col 1, lines 50-65).

The Rowe Provisional Application demonstrates the EZ pay ticket systems referred to by Rowe (6,394,207). Rowe discloses in Figure 1 of Provisional Application 60/200,329 an 'EZ Play Game King Machine' with 'Game King with printer, hopper and ticket reader'. Rowe discloses that 'coins/bills/tickets in' can be presented to the game machine, that the user can 'select denomination and game' and 'game play'. Rowe further discloses that the user can 'cash out: machine prints ticket and/or pays out coins'. Rowe further discloses that the user can 'use ticket to play another EZ Play Game King Machine' or that the ticket can be taken to a 'Cashier' and that the 'cashier verifies machine ticket with CVT and pays player'.

Rowe (Figure 1, Provisional Application) discloses:

cash voucher utilized with a gaming machine, that the cash voucher can be a tangible item, printed ticket, etc.;

Credit particular cash value from cash voucher to player of the gaming machine;

Retrieving one or more cash values from said at least one gaming machine;

Accepting cash vouchers, storing data associated with the cash vouchers, crediting value associated with the cash voucher, container for storing cash vouchers;

Storing cash vouchers and cash (Figure 1, Rowe Provisional Application).

Rowe further discloses receiving bills and cash voucher tickets (col 1, lines 19-29).

Rowe discloses a bar coded ticket, a scanner, and a printer (col 3, lines 2-5; col 6, lines 55-60).

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Rowe further discloses that game machines can be utilized to cash out cash voucher tickets, and that the voucher tickets are verified (col 8, lines 55-64; col 12, lines 55-64).

Rowe (6,394,907) discloses auditing, verifying, checking information related to cash vouchers and cash voucher use (col 9, lines 55-col 10, line 10; Fig. 2, item 40, 'Audit').

Rowe further discloses counting, sorting, transferring or shipping (col 14, lines 57-63).

Rowe further discloses '1) session reconciliation reports, 2) soft count reports, 3) soft count verification reports, 4) soft count exception reports, 5) machine ticket status reports' (col 9, line 60-67).

Additionally, Luciano discloses a casino environment, games at the casino, gaming devices at the casino (col 1, lines 15-40).

Luciano further discloses that these gaming device (Player Terminals) can issue cash vouchers at the gaming device itself (col 1, lines 50-53) that vouchers issued by a gaming device can be used at other gaming devices (col 1, lines 5-62).

Luciano further discloses that the vouchers are encoded with indicia that are readable by a machine (col 2, lines 1-15; col 8, lines 32-37; col 8, lines 65-67). Therefore, since the gaming devices read the vouchers, the gaming devices are also machines. Luciano also discloses that the gaming device is a machine (col 7, lines 40-45 and col 7, lines 55-57).

Also, the online Merriam-Webster dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'device' as 'f : a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function' and 'machine' as 'f : a mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated device for performing a task <a calculating *machine*> <a card-sorting *machine*> g : a coin-operated device <a cigarette *machine*>'.

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Also, Luciano discloses a bar coded ticket and a scanner (Abstract).

Luciano discloses a handheld scanner (Fig. 4).

Luciano further discloses that the gaming device can issue cash and/or cash vouchers (col 2, line 63-col 3, line 3).

Luciano further discloses checking cash value amounts (col 5, lines 28-42; col 6, lines 40-51; col 6, line 62-col 7, line 5).

Luciano further discloses accepting voucher, cash, and an audit printer (Fig. 3, items 34, 38, and 'Audit Printer').

Luciano is considered to disclose the step of accepting and crediting at a gaming machine including retrieving money and reading cash vouchers unique identifying element, and reconciling and sorting (column 5 lines 23-43).

Luciano further discloses that the voucher can be utilized at a gaming terminal and that the central system tracks retrieves, tracks, organizes, and verifies the utilization of vouchers (col 1, lines 40-col 2, line 15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Luciano's and Rowe's accounting, verification, sorting, auditing features can be applied to both the cash and cash vouchers. One would have been motivated to do this in order to properly process the cash and cash vouchers that are present in the Gaming Machine of Rowe.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in grounds of the new rejection above.

Examiner notes that while specific references were made to the prior art, it is actually also the prior art in its entirety and the combination of the prior art in its entirety that is being referred to.

Also, Examiner responds to Applicant's argument concerning Luciano below.

Please also note that the additional citations added below have also been added to the rejection above.

On page 13 of Applicant's Amendment dated 12/20/04, Applicant states "while each of the presently pending claims requires the use of a 'gaming machine', Luciano never discloses or describes such an element."

However, Luciano discloses a casino environment, games at the casino, gaming devices at the casino (col 1, lines 15-40) .

Luciano further discloses that these gaming device (Player Terminals) can issue cash vouchers at the gaming device itself (col 1, lines 50-53) that vouchers issued by a gaming device can be used at other gaming devices (col 1, lines 5-62).

Luciano further discloses that the vouchers are encoded with indicia that are readable by a machine (col 2, lines 1-15; col 8, lines 32-37; col 8, lines 65-67). Therefore, since the gaming devices read the vouchers, the gaming devices are also machines. Luciano also discloses that the gaming device is a machine (col 7, lines 40-45 and col 7, lines 55-57).

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Also, the online Merriam-Webster dictionary at www.m-w.com defines 'device' as 'f : a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function' and 'machine' as 'f : a mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated device for performing a task <a calculating *machine*> <a card-sorting *machine*> g : a coin-operated device <a cigarette *machine*>'.

Luciano further discloses that the gaming device can issue cash and/or cash vouchers (col 2, line 63-col 3, line 3).

Luciano further discloses checking cash value amounts (col 5, lines 28-42; col 6, lines 40-51; col 6, line 62-col 7, line 5).

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a. Rowe (6,682,421) discloses cash and cash vouchers being utilized by and reconciled at game machines and casinos;

b. Luciano (6,537,150) discloses cash and cash vouchers being utilized by and reconciled at game machines and casinos;

c. Luciano (6,652,380) discloses cash and cash vouchers being utilized by and reconciled at game machines and casinos;

d. Luciano (6,685,449) discloses cash and cash vouchers being utilized by and reconciled at game machines and casinos;

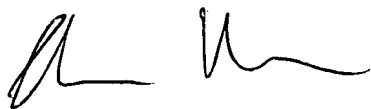
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e. Luciano (Publication No 2001/0034259) discloses cash and cash vouchers being utilized by and reconciled at game machines and casinos.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Duran whose telephone number is (703)305-4687. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (703)305-8469. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arthur Duran
Patent Examiner
1/13/05